

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:BWBROWN,JR.:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:BWBROWN,JR.

NEA/P:MVAN ORDER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 305539

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING ON DECEMBER 31,  
1975.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO MRS. GANDHI'S ASSERTIONS  
THIS MORNING THAT SECRET AGENTS ARE OPERATING IN INDIA?

A: WE, OF COURSE, ARE AWARE OF WHAT SHE HAS BEEN SAYING  
IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. YESTERDAY, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRE-  
TARY SOBER CALLED IN THE INDIAN CHARGE AND EXPRESSED HIS  
CONCERN AND DISMAY.

Q: I AM SORRY, I WASN'T LISTENING -- EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN  
AND DISMAY AT WHAT?

A: AT THE REPORTS THAT WE HAVE SEEN OF WHAT MRS. GANDHI  
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HAS SAID IN THE LAST FEW DAYS WITH RELATION TO THE UNITED

STATES.

Q: DID SHE SAY THAT BEFORE OR AFTER WE SENT THE WATER PUMPS?

A: I THINK SHE HAS BEEN -- IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS, JERRY, I THINK THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. I DO NOT KNOW HOW IT FITS IN WITH OUR SENDING THE WATER PUMPS.

Q: HAS THIS BEEN IN THE PAPERS? I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING OF WHAT SHE SAID. HAS THIS BEEN IN THE PAPERS? WHAT HAS SHE SAID?

A: A SLIGHT CORRECTION. HE DID NOT CALL THE CHARGE IN. HE CALLED HIM BY TELEPHONE TO EXPRESS THESE SENTIMENTS.

Q: NONE OF US SEEM TO KNOW WHAT SHE SAID, EXCEPT THE FIRST QUESTIONER. WHAT DID SHE SAY?

A: I THINK SHE HAS TRIED TO LIKEN THE U.S. PRESENCE OR ROLE IN INDIA TO WHAT ALLEGEDLY WAS THE U.S. ROLE, OR HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BE THE U.S. ROLE, IN CHILE. I REALLY DO NOT HAVE MUCH MORE ON THAT THAT I CARE TO DISCUSS.

Q: IN A PUBLIC SPEECH OR A STATEMENT OR AN INTERVIEW?

A: I BELIEVE IT WAS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.

Q: HOW LONG AGO?

A: I THINK IN THE LAST FEW DAYS: THAT IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE INDIAN CONGRESS PARTY'S DECISION TO PUT OFF THE ELECTIONS UNTIL NEXT YEAR?

A: NONE, BERNIE. THAT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER.

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Q: CAN WE COME BACK AGAIN TO MRS. GANDHI WHO SAID THESE TERRIBLE THINGS? WHO CALLED WHOM, THEN?

Q: ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIDNEY SOBER, BY TELEPHONE, EXPRESSED TO THE INDIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN AND DISMAY OVER MRS. GANDHI'S COMMENTS.

Q: JOHN, DO YOU HAVE THE NAME OF THE INDIAN CHARGE?

A: I DO NOT HAVE IT. ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

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